



Chair
Supervisor Liz Kniss
Executive Director
Jolena L. Voorhis

www.urbancounties.com

1100 "K" Street, Suite 101/Sacramento, CA 95814/ (916) 327-7531 FAX (916) 491-4182/UCC@urbancounties.com

September 9, 2011

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 16x1 (Blumenfield) – Realignment Clean-Up
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Urban Counties Caucus (UCC), a coalition of California's most populous counties, is in support of AB 16x1, which is pending on your desk. As you know, this bill will make technical changes to AB 118 which is the budget trailer bill that established the realignment funding structure.

Specifically, this bill would make the following key changes:

- Allow counties to contract back with the state for adoptions and Drug Medi-Cal for those counties that do not currently provide those services.
- Establishes a CalWORKs subaccount in the structure which previously was not provided in AB 118.
- Provides intent language that future implementation legislation must address as a priority funding for Child Welfare Services.
- Requires counties to redirect savings from no longer paying a share of residential placement costs for mental health services for special education students (AB 3632) to reinvest those savings in foster care, child welfare or adoption programs.

This bill makes needed changes in order for counties to make realignment work in the 2011-12 fiscal year. We would like to thank you and your staff for your leadership on this issue and working with counties to ensure that realignment can be implemented. We would note that while there are many additional clean-up issues that need to be addressed, this bill is a good first step.

For the above reasons, the Urban Counties Caucus urges your signature on AB 16x1. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jolena L. Voorhis", is written over a horizontal line.

Jolena L. Voorhis
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Blumenfield
Diane Cummins, Department of Finance

Board of Directors: **Chair:** Supervisor Liz Kniss, Santa Clara County; **Vice Chair:** Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego County **Treasurer:** Vinod Sharma, Finance Director, Santa Clara County **Members:** Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County; Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County; Supervisor Don Knabe, Los Angeles County; Supervisor John Moorlach, Orange County; Supervisor John Benoit, Riverside County; Supervisor Susan Peters, Sacramento County; Supervisor Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County, Vacant, San Francisco County; Supervisor Carole Groom, San Mateo County; Supervisor Kathy Long, Ventura County